

6 a connector coupled to the plunger below the top end, wherein the connector is  
7 configured to permit fluids to be moved upwardly through the connector and the plunger upon  
8 each downstroke of the plunger; and

9 a rod coupled to the connector, wherein the rod is translatable to reciprocate the  
10 plunger within the pump barrel using an upstroke and a downstroke, and wherein the top end  
11 of the plunger is adapted to direct particulate into the plunger and away from the pump barrel  
12 upon each upstroke.

1 2. (As filed) A system as in claim 1, wherein the top end of cylinder is  
2 inwardly tapered, and wherein the connector is disposed within the cylinder.

1 3. (As filed) A system as in claim 1, wherein the connector has at least one  
2 through hole to permit fluids to be moved upwardly through the connector and the plunger  
3 upon each downstroke of the plunger.

1 4. (As filed) A system as in claim 1, wherein the pump barrel has a bottom  
2 end and a standing valve in the bottom end.

1 5. (Amended) A method for pumping fluids from the ground, the method  
2 comprising:

3 placing a pumping system into the ground, wherein the pumping system  
4 comprises a pump barrel, a plunger reciprocatably positioned within the pump barrel, wherein  
5 the plunger has an open top end with a sharpened edge, a bottom end, and a traveling valve at  
6 the bottom end, and a connector coupled to the plunger below the top end; and

7 reciprocating the plunger within the pump barrel with an upstroke and a  
8 downstroke, and directing particulate into the plunger through the open top end and away from  
9 the pump barrel upon each upstroke with the sharpened edge.

1 6. (As filed) A method as in claim 5, wherein the plunger comprises a  
2 cylinder having an inwardly tapered open top end to direct particulate into the cylinder upon  
3 each upstroke.

1 7. (As filed) A method as in claim 5, wherein the plunger has a traveling  
2 valve at the bottom end, wherein the pump barrel has a standing valve at a bottom end such  
3 that fluids are drawn into the pump barrel through the standing valve upon each upstroke and  
4 are forced through the traveling valve upon each downstroke.